

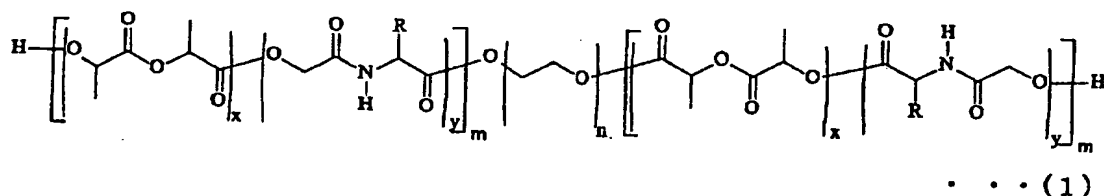
**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please replace the present title with the following amended title:**

~~TERTIARY BLOCK TRIBLOCK~~ COPOLYMER, ~~PROCESS METHOD~~ FOR  
PRODUCING THE SAME, AND BIOCOMPATIBLE MATERIAL

**Please replace the first full paragraph on page 6 with the following amended paragraph:**

According to the present invention, there is also provided a A<sup>1</sup>-B-A<sup>2</sup> triblock copolymer represented by the formula (1):



wherein R stands for a hydrogen atom, CH<sub>3</sub>-, CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CH-, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CHCH<sub>2</sub>-, CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)-, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O(C=O)CH<sub>2</sub>-, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O(C=O)CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O(C=O)NH(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>-, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>(C=O)OCH<sub>2</sub>-, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>(C=O)OC(CH<sub>3</sub>)H-, CH<sub>3</sub>O-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-CH-SCH<sub>2</sub>-, CH<sub>3</sub>O-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-CH-SCH<sub>2</sub>- or CH<sub>3</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>t-1</sub>-S-SCH<sub>2</sub>-, provided that t is a positive integer; x and y each represents the number of repeating units in segments A<sup>1</sup> and A<sup>2</sup>, x is an integer of 0 or more, y is an integer of 1 or more, and x and y satisfy the formula 0.04 ≤ (y/(x+y)) ≤ 1; m and n each represents a polymerization degree, m is a positive integer, and n is an integer of 100 to 1200.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
U.S. Application No.:

**Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11 with the following amended paragraph:**

Lactide as a polymer constituent in the random copolymer of lactide and depsipeptide that may constitute segments A<sup>1</sup> and A<sup>2</sup>, is an intramolecular cyclic diester compound obtained by dehydrating two molecules of  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acid. Examples of lactide may include intramolecular cyclic diesters of lactic acid, such as D-lactide, L-lactide, and D,L-lactide, and intramolecular cyclic diesters of glycolic acid, such as glycolide. These ~~glycolides~~-lactides provide physical cross-linking points in self-assembly of the triblock copolymers. Since ~~glycolides~~-lactides have various crystallinity, the hydrolyzability and mechanical strength of the triblock copolymer may be controlled by using single glycolide or combining a plurality of ~~glycolides~~-lactides of different crystallinity. In this way, the in vivo structural stability and biostability of the triblock copolymer may be adapted to the intended application. L-lactide is preferred as lactide for its availability.

**Please replace the last paragraph on page 26 with the following amended paragraph:**

Referential Example 1-1

A polylactide-PEG-polylactide A<sup>1</sup>-B-A<sup>2</sup> triblock copolymer was obtained in the same way as in Example 1-1, except that the amount of L-lactide was 0.805 g, and depsipeptide was not used. The obtained copolymer was subjected to the various measurements. The results are shown in Table 1.